DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 045 142 LI 002 305

AUTHOR	Boldis, Josef
TITLE	The Theory of Librarianship in the System of Sciences.
INSTITUTION	International Federation of Library Associations, Seven Oaks, Kent (England).
PUB DATE	Aug 70
NOTE	9p.; Paper prepared for the session of the Committee on Library Theory and Research at the International Federation of Library Associations 36th Session, Moscow, August, 1970
EDRS PRICE	EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$0.55
DESCRIPTORS	Foreign Countries, *Information Science, *Information Systems, *Librarians, *Library Science, Science Programs, *Theories
IDENTIFIERS	*Slovakia

ABSTRACT

The views of theorists on Librarianship and library economy can be roughly classified into the following four groups: (1) There are two scientific disciplines existing independently: library science (with librarian activity and the library being the object of research), and bibliology (with the book, its history and development as the object of research). (2) Some experts regard library science as the higher ranking activity with bibliology integrated into library science; others view the order in the reverse. (3) Library science is considered by some as an integrated branch embracing all disciplines of this domain; others consider bibliology as an integrated branch embracing all branches including publishing. (4) Librarianship, with all its related disciplines, has no scientific character; it is considered to be a practical branch; its theory constitutes a special doctrine. In Slovakia librarianship is a branch of independent university study, however, it is not acknowledged as a branch of science. Endeavors to integrate librarianship and its related branches into one scientific group called library science which would be equal with other scientific disciplines were not successful. A new scientific branch called "informatics" which includes library science and scientific information has been proposed. The systemization of this new scientific discipline is presented. (NH)

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ED045142

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

36-th Session. Moscow. August, 1970

Committee on Library Theory and Research

Dr. JOSEF BOLDIŠ
(ČSSR)

THE THEORY OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE SYSTEM OF SCIENCES

LI 002305

The Theory of Librarianship in the System of Science

The scientific character of librarianship and its related disciplines was in the past and to a certain extent still is the subject of discussions and controversies. Persons working in the other scientific branches who are competent for carrying out classification into the nomenclature of the scientific branches did not recognise the scientific preliminary conditions of librarianship. But even experts in the theory of librarianship themselves were not unambiguous in their view on the scientific character of the theory of librarianship and its related disciplines. Questions such as the scientific character of librarianship, the delimitation of its range and extents, problems of fundamental terminology etc. have been delt with already since the beginning of the 19th century. In the 19th century mostly German theorists were engaged in the study of these themes, in our century mainly Soviet theorists are concerned with them. Among the Germans mention is to be made of Schrettinger, Graesel, Harnack, Vorstius, Kirchner while among the Soviet theorists there are names such as Lisovskij, Kufajev, Lovjagin, Somov, Sikorskij, Šamurin, Novodadskij and others. The views of theorists on librarianship and library economy can be roughly classified in 4 to 5 groups; however, there is a whole range of divergencies with respect to this scientific character /such as the sociological trend and the like/.

Essentially, we can speak of the following groups:

1. There are two scientific disciplines existing independently one next to the other: library science /the object of its research being librarian activity and the library/ and bibliology /the object of its research is the book, its history, its development/; each of them have their own methods of research.

2.Library science and bibliology are considered as an integrated branch; in the view of some experts library science occupies a higher place and bibliology is integrated into the library science; according to other views the odder is reversed: bibliology is ranged higher and library science is integrated into bibliology.

3.Library science is considered as an integrated branch embracing all disciplines of this domaine /bibliology,bibliography,documentation/; and there are experts in whose view bibliology is such an integrated branch embracing all branches of this sphere publishing activity included

4.Librarianship,with all its related disciplines, has no scientific character; it is considered to be a practical branch,its theory constitutes a special doctrine.

But even when the theory of librarianship was granted scientific character, the views concerning the position of library science in the system of science were different.At most,library science was granted the position of an auxiliary discipline in the framework of disciplines suhh as hiatory,paedagogigc and the like.So far,this is the situation in our country.Librarianship,though acknowledged as a branch of independent university study, is not acknowledged as a branch of science confering scientifical degrees. Things are similar in some other countries e.g. in the Soviet Union where library science is ranged into the category of paedagogical sciences.Scientific degrees in the field of library science and its related disciplines can be obtained by experts by means of special thematic elaborations about informatics,librarianship, bibliography and the like, always,however,in relationship to another discipline such as history,literary science,paedagogics and the like.

Resulting from the activity of several outstanding theorists in the field of informatics and librarianship whose works translated into foreign languages are known abroad as well, there is a relatively

brisk advance taking place in our country with respect to the theory of informatics and librarianship. A special Commission for scientific--theoretical activity established at the Association of Slovak Librarians, bibliographers and persons occupied in informatics is at work. Recently particular seminars dealing with the theoretical model of librarianship and informatics were organized in the Slovak Socialistic Republic, Czechoslovakia; a competition has been arranged by the Ministry of Culture with the theme of theoretical works in librarianship, bibliography and informatics. Further, an international seminar in the framework of UNESCO was realized in 1969, dealing with the work in village libraries. There were several works published in the field of the theory of informatics, with their importance transgressing the national frame. From this theoretical business results a noticeable development of theoretical views also on the conception of librarianship as a branch of science, characterized by deviation from the traditional conception. While in the first theoretical seminary of librarianship held in 1965 there were still mainly traditional views expressed on librarianship as a branch of science, the second theoretical seminary held in 1970 was dominated already by views springing from cognitions gained in the new discipline - informatics which with its object and extent encroaches not only upon new disciplines such as the theory of information and systems of informations but it affects also traditional disciplines concerned with informational activity of various types. Already in the first theoretical seminary two groups of conceptions did encounter: the first group endeavoured bibliology to be considered as an integrated branch embracing all disciplines of this field, the second group was insisting on the view that the theory of information ~~m~~ is an integrated branch apt to include librarianship, bibliography, bibliology etc. The result of the 1970 seminary was that in essence

the following opinion has been adopted: informatics is a scientific discipline concerned with the complex study of the essence of specific scientific information systems with the aim to enhance the temporal and qualitative effectiveness of the scientific - -informative process. Part of informatics consists in its sub-systems such as librarianship theory, library science, theory of bibliography, theory of documentation, theory of the systems ~~of~~ concerned with the conservation and retrieval of information. In this conception informatics has an integrational function in the field of theoretical disciplines which deal with various kinds of information and information systems; in this, however, each discipline preserves its own particular independence, specific position and function.

In recent years theorists of librarianship repeatedly endeavoured to elaborate propositions aiming at librarianship being ranged into the official nomenclature of scientific disciplines, without being successful in reaching this goal. They were not able to become victorious over the prevailing view considering librarianship to be a practicistic branch. This was the reason why both in our country and elsewhere, too, endeavours were made to integrate librarianship and its related branches into one scientific group, a field they called library science, bibliology and the like. However, neither these proposals got realized, and the equality of rights of library science with the other scientific disciplines could not be achieved.

Taking into account the principles explained above and the present state of knowledge on the problem in question, a proposition has been elaborated by the Chair of Librarianship and Scientific Information in Bratislava, in cooperation with other librarian institutions to the effect that a new scientific branch

called "Informatics" should be ranged into the official nomenclature and that this branch should be entitled to confer scientific degrees of the Philosophical Faculty of the Komenský University in Bratislava. The proposition aiming at ranging Informatics as a new scientific discipline into the nomenclature of scientific disciplines was based on the Law No. 53/1964 Zb. containing stipulations on confering scientific degrees and dealing with the competence of the State Committee for Scientific Degrees. The proposition codifies not only the new scientific discipline but gives rights to all scientific disciplines of this domaine equal to the rights of the other scientific disciplines, it eliminates its long-lasting discrimination as compared with the other scientific disciplines. In the sense of this proposition informatics is conceived as an integrated discipline that includes new disciplines such as the theory of information, of the systems of information, the history of informatics and others, further it includes also the traditional disciplines such as the theory of librarianship, bibliology, the theory of bibliography, the theory of documentation and the theory of scientific information.

At present, there are several definitions for informatics and there are also diverging views as far as the essence and the systemic integration of informatics into science is concerned. If informations, systems of communication in society and people are considered to be the objective nucleus of informatics, one is fully entitled to state that informatics has essentially a social-scientific character and belongs to the system of social sciences.

To the effect of the proposition mentioned above, the systemisation of the new scientific discipline is to run as follows:

20. The science of informatics /denomination of the entire new scientific group/

21. General informatics

22. The theory of librarianship, bibliography, documentation and scientific information.

The subjects proposed for expert-examinations in granting a scientific degree are to be as follows:

20. The science of informatics

21. Informatics —

Compulsory subjects

General informatics,

Special branch /theory of librarianship, bibliology, theory of bibliography, theory of documentation, theory of scientific information, history of informatics, theory of guiding systems/

Optional subjects

Informatics applied on a certain scientific branch

22. Special branches /theory of librarianship, bibliology, theory of bibliography, theory of documentation, theory of scientific information, history of informatics, theory of guiding systems/

Compulsory subject

General informatics

Optional subjects

Informatics applied in a certain scientific branch

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